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(PICTURES HAVE MOVED)

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DAY LEAD PERSONS
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CPYRGHT

ATLANTA, MARCH 8 (UPI)--AN AMERICAN PILOT SAID YESTERDAY WHEN THE CUBAN INVASION FAILED A PLAN WAS PROPOSED FOR A FAKE ATTACK ON THE U.S. NAVAL BASE AT GUANTANAMO TO GIVE UNITED STATES FORCES AN EXCUSE TO ENTER THE FIGHTING.

"I DON'T THINK IT WAS TAKEN SERIOUSLY," SAID ALBERT C. PERSONS, 47-YEAR-OLD BIRMINGHAM, ALA., WEEKLY NEWSPAPER EDITOR. "IT WAS TRANSMITTED TO WASHINGTON AS A SUGGESTION FOR A WAY TO SAVE THIS THING (THE INVASION) BY WHATEVER AUTHORITY, I DON'T KNOW."

PERSONS, A WORLD WAR II FLIER, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW HE WAS RECRUITED FOR THE APRIL, 1961, INVASION AND WAS IN NICARAGUA ORGANIZING AIR STRIKES AGAINST CUBA WHEN IT BECAME OBVIOUS "THE THING HAD FAILED COMPLETELY TO PIECES."

AT THAT POINT, PERSONS SAID, ONE OF THE AMERICAN PILOTS (UNIDENTIFIED) SUGGESTED THAT TWO OR THREE PLANES ALREADY PAINTED WITH CUBAN MARKINGS FLY TO GUANTANAMO AND STRAFE RUNWAYS OR OTHER SECTIONS OF THE BASE. "BY A FAST PRE-ARRANGEMENT" WITH GUANTANAMO, PERSONS SAID, BASE PERSONNEL WOULD BE REMOVED TO SAFETY BEFORE THE STAGED ATTACK.

"THIS WAS A VERY CYNICAL APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM, BUT AS FAR AS THE REST OF THE WORLD IS CONCERNED IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BELIEVABLE," HE SAID. "IT WOULD HAVE ALSO PROVIDED A VERY FINE EXCUSE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO MOVE IN WITH TROOPS. THIS WAS TO HAVE COMPLETED THE JOB."

PERSONS, FIRST COUSIN TO GEN. W. B. PERSONS, FORMER PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER'S MILITARY AIDE, CONTENDED THE BAY OF PIGS INVASION WOULD HAVE SUCCEEDED IF PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO HADN'T BEEN GIVEN TIME TO MUSTER HIS FORCES AFTER THE FIRST AIR STRIKE.

HE SAID HE BELIEVED "SOMEONE" CALLED A 48-HOUR DELAY IN THE INVASION AFTER THE FIRST ATTACK ON CUBAN TARGETS ON APRIL 15. THE NEXT AIR ATTACK WAS ON APRIL 18, THE DAY AFTER THE INVASION.

"THE EFFECT OF THIS 48 HOURS WAS OBVIOUSLY TO GIVE CASTRO 48 HOURS TO DISPERSE HIS AIRCRAFT, HIS TANKS, HIS TROOPS AND TO PREPARE FOR AN INVASION HE HAD BEEN EXPECTING FOR MANY MONTHS," SAID PERSONS.

THE AMERICANS INVOLVED IN THE INVASION WERE NOT "IRRESPONSIBLE SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE," PERSONS SAID. EIGHTEEN AMERICANS, INCLUDING HIMSELF, WERE RECRUITED IN BIRMINGHAM "BY PEOPLE WHO SAID THEY REPRESENTED CUBAN EXILE GROUPS."

HE SAID THE GROUP WAS TRAINED IN THE UNITED STATES AND THEN SENT TO CENTRAL AMERICA TO ORGANIZE AIR STRIKES AGAINST CUBA. PERSONS SAID MAJ. GEN. G. REID DOSTER OF THE ALABAMA AIR NATIONAL GUARD WAS IN COMMAND OF TACTICAL AIR OPERATIONS IN THE INVASION.

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